

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Fred Finke Stock water pipeline
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	1 October 2020
<b>Proponent:</b>	Fred Finke
<b>Location:</b>	29N 11E 16 NW4 and SE4
<b>County:</b>	Chouteau
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The purpose of this land use license would be to allow the construction of a stock water pipeline across school trust lands to adjacent deeded and BLM land with no source or place of use on the trust land.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
Northeastern Land Office (NELO) & Lewistown Unit Office  
Proponent: Fred Finke  
Surface Lessees: Triple E Inc

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits for the proposed project and settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative A (No Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to construct a stock water pipeline across trust lands.

**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to construct a stock water pipeline across trust lands.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES* potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain **POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS** following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

The soils to be affected have a high probability of rutting so construction will be limited to dry or frozen conditions.

Table - Soil Rutting Hazard - Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Severe		163.6	50.4%	
Moderate		160.8	49.6%	
Totals for Area of Interest		324.4	100.0%	

All these soils to be affected are rated as slight for off road erosion and since construction will already be limited to dry or frozen conditions there should be no erosion hazard.

Table - Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) - Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Slight		324.4	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest		324.4	100.0%	

No significant cumulative impacts to geology or soil quality, stability, and moisture are anticipated.

#### 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

This project would change the local distribution of water to allow access to stock water in areas currently lacking it. No diversions to surface water will be made. No affects to surface water are anticipated.

No significant impacts to local or regional water resources are anticipated.

#### 6. AIR QUALITY:

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

Some temporary affects to air quality may occur during construction in the form of exhaust fumes and dust but these will be short lived and

No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.

#### 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

All construction will take place within active agricultural fields and no native vegetation will be disturbed.

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant impacts to vegetation are anticipated.



## 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

Only a narrow strip of land will be disturbed during construction and since all the disturbance will occur within active agricultural fields there will be no habitat destruction because it will all be farmed over again.

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats are anticipated.

## 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

All the species of concern in the vicinity are birds and since construction will not occur during nesting periods there is not likely to be any significant impacts to endangered resources. Since all the installation will occur within active agricultural fields no important habitat will be disturbed. Temporary displacement may occur during construction.

* Birds - Baird's Sparrow ( <i>Centurus bairdi</i> )	SO Count: 20	Obs Count: 41	Earliest Obs: 1930	Recent Obs: 2010
* Birds - Brewer's Sparrow ( <i>Sipha breweri</i> )	SO Count: 7	Obs Count: 11	Earliest Obs: 1927	Recent Obs: 2010
* Birds - Burrowing Owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	SO Count: 1	Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 1925	Recent Obs: 1905
* Birds - Chestnut-collared Longspur ( <i>Calcarius ornatus</i> )	SO Count: 19	Obs Count: 62	Earliest Obs: 1927	Recent Obs: 2010
* Birds - Ferruginous Hawk ( <i>Bubo regalis</i> )	SO Count: 1	Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 2016	Recent Obs: 2015
* Birds - Loggerhead Shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	SO Count: 4	Obs Count: 8	Earliest Obs: 1922	Recent Obs: 2007
* Birds - Long-billed Curlew ( <i>Numenius americanus</i> )	SO Count: 11	Obs Count: 19	Earliest Obs: 1927	Recent Obs: 2010
* Birds - McCown's Longspur ( <i>Peyrolophyes macconni</i> )	SO Count: 12	Obs Count: 19	Earliest Obs: 1927	Recent Obs: 2010
* Birds - Sprague's Pipit ( <i>Archus spraguei</i> )	SO Count: 1	Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 1920	Recent Obs: 1909

No significant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are anticipated, though temporary displacement of local wildlife may occur during the project.

## 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

No significant effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

## 11. AESTHETICS:

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

All the trenching will occur in active agricultural fields that will be farmed over again after completion.

No significant impacts on the aesthetics of the area are anticipated.

## 12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

No limited environmental resources will be significantly impacted because of this project. This project will also not add any significant cumulative demands on environmental resources.

**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

**IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

The installation of this project would involve some risks to human safety during construction. The risks associated with construction and installation would be the responsibility of the proponent and/or their contractors to mitigate.

**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

This project would lead to better utilization of grazing land in the area due to better water distribution for livestock.

**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

The project will not create or eliminate any jobs, so no significant effects to the employment market are anticipated.

**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

There will not be any significant increases in traffic, school attendance, or need for fire and police protection if this project is approved.

**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.



**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

There will be no significant direct or cumulative effects on access to or quality of recreation and wilderness activities because of this project.

**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing*

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments.

**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be significantly impacted by the proposal.

**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

The proposed project will have no significant impact on any culturally unique quality of the area.

**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

The proposed project will not have any significant cumulative economic or social effect.

## V. FINDING

### 25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:


**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to construct a stock water pipeline across trust lands

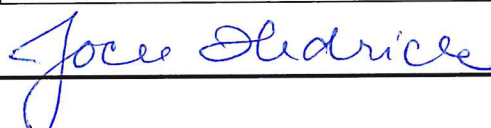
### 26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined no significant impact to the environment because of this project.

### 27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐ EIS      ☐ More Detailed EA      ☒ No Further Analysis

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<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 12 August 2020

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Jocee Hedrick <b>Title:</b> Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 8/12/2020